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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**GINO H. POLIDORI**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

COMMITTEES:  
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY, CHAIR  
EDUCATION  
INSURANCE

To: Chairman Constan and Members of the House Committee on Governmental Operations

From: Representative Gino H. Polidori

Date: December 15, 2009

Re: Testimony for HR 112

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the House Committee on Governmental Operations. I am Tim Sneller, Legislative Director for Representative Polidori. I would like to apologize that Rep. Polidori could not be here today because of a scheduling conflict, but it was important to him at I be to explain HR 112.

As you know, HR 112 was introduced by Rep. Polidori when the Italian Government announced earlier this year that it was proposing the closure of the Italian Consulate Office in Detroit.

HR 112 would basically ask the United States Department of State to work with the Italian Government to maintain the Italian Consulate in downtown Detroit.

Since 1899, the Italian government has had a presence in Detroit, which has been marked by generations of personal, cultural, educational and commercial exchanges. The Italian Consulate in Detroit not only serves Michigan, it has jurisdiction in Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The consulate offers such services as; assisting with visas, working with businesses in Michigan and Italy and to provide services to Italian-Americans for education and cultural exchanges.

The recent merger between Chrysler Corporation and Fiat will be vital because the world headquarters in located in Michigan and services between the two countries will certainly increase.

Finally, this joint adventure would seem more likely to create more of a demand for the Italian Consulate to remain in Detroit with an official presence because that interaction will be increased over the next several years.

Thank you for your time today and if there are any questions, I would certainly be happy to try and address them.